

United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on a successful career and in wishing him nothing but the best in his retirement.

COMMEMORATING PHYLLIS
SCHLAFLY AND HER WORK ON
BEHALF OF INVENTORS AND
THE U.S. PATENT SYSTEM

HON. DAVE BRAT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate an outstanding conservative leader with whom I had the privilege of working with and learning from over my political career: Phyllis Schlafly. Her efforts advocating for America's inventors and the patent system that protects their inventions will be highlighted at an upcoming event of the Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund entitled "Phyllis Schlafly: Celebrating an Untiring Advocate of Inventors and the Economic Freedom to Invent." Therefore, I wish to add a word commemorating the contribution of this bold patriot who was an indispensable force to our great nation's success.

America has long been a haven for innovations in the marketplace. Through the years, American inventors have looked to Article I, Section 8 of our U.S. Constitution and its power vested in Congress to protect creators' "exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries." As a result, America has held the distinction of being a global leader in cutting-edge innovations and novel inventions.

Phyllis Schlafly recognized this vital part of our free enterprise system and was a strong voice on behalf of American inventors. She was quick to praise the American patent system, which was unique when the Founding Fathers put it into the U.S. Constitution and is still unique today. She decried other nations that advance themselves by stealing American designs while clutching to inferior patent systems that punish inventors and stymie progress.

Phyllis Schlafly understood that the superiority of American ingenuity is not a matter of happenstance, but the product of a bold and inspired precedent set by our Founding Fathers and enshrined in our Constitution. Only through patent protection, the right to private property, and the free market can America motivate inventors to stretch the boundaries of what is possible and create the products that increase productivity, save time, and save lives every day. From the traffic light and GPS navigation, to the microwave oven and the Internet, every American has benefitted from our unique patent system.

For more than seventy years, Phyllis Schlafly was a tireless advocate for our patent system. I am proud to honor her and the many inventors she fought to protect.

IN RECOGNITION OF SARA
ABLARD

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to use this time to recognize an outstanding constituent in Virginia's 10th District, Sara Ablard, who has had an incredible impact on increasing awareness for children with cleft palates and cleft lips. Working closely with the Smile Train, an organization that helps cover the \$250 surgery for infants with the birth defect known as cleft lip or cleft palate, Ms. Ablard founded the Sadie's Smile Foundation in honor of her daughter Sadie who passed away six years ago during a roller skating accident.

Ms. Ablard always remembers Sadie's beautiful smile and her compassion for other children. One day while walking through Dulles Town Center, Sadie saw a poster of a boy with a cleft palate and was intrigued and curious as to how she might be able to help him and others. That Christmas, Sadie and Ms. Ablard asked for donations instead of presents, and they were able to raise \$500, which fully funded two surgeries for infants with cleft palates and lips.

Sadie truly wanted to give others the chance to smile, as she once did so brightly and proudly, and when she passed away, Ms. Ablard made it her life goal to preserve Sadie's legacy through helping others. She started the Sadie's Smile Foundation, which, this year, is hosting its 6th Annual 5K & Kids Fun Run for Smile Train, with the goal of raising \$478,250, signifying \$250 for each day her daughter was alive and smiling. The 5K and Fun Run not only increase awareness and raise money for the Smile Train organization, but the event also helps us all remember Sadie and bring the community together.

Mr. Speaker, I now ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Sara Ablard's heroic actions and the memory of her beloved daughter, Sadie. Individuals, like Sara, who overcome terrible tragedies in their own lives and go on to help others, truly make me proud to serve Virginia's 10th District, and today, we honor and celebrate her contributions to our community and to those less fortunate. I wish Sara all the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SPECIALIST JAMES
STEVENS' SERVICE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Specialist James Stevens as he selflessly defended our nation.

A native of Knoxville, Iowa, Specialist Stevens grew up playing with "GI Joe" action figures and watching war movies, dreaming that one day he too would become a soldier. In 2010, James enlisted in the U.S. Army and then graduated from Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, achieving his childhood dream. During his time at Infantry School, James learned how to defend this nation and

the importance of brotherhood. Two years later, Specialist Stevens deployed to Afghanistan where he was stationed at Combat Outpost Zerok. In support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Specialist Stevens and his infantry unit were responsible for guard duty and combat patrols. Stevens' valor and leadership led him to serve as a decorated hero receiving the Afghanistan Campaign medal with Campaign Star, Army Commendation Medal, NATO Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's badge.

Currently a veteran, Stevens continues to serve members of his community in East Peoria, Illinois. As a proud father, he raises his two girls, Kirstin and Madison, and teaches his daughters the same lessons learned while serving aside his Army brothers at Fort Riley: loyalty, duty, respect, and honor. In addition, Stevens volunteers with the Habitat for Humanity Greater Peoria Area where communities come together to build homes for veterans and military families.

Specialist James Stevens is an American hero, who has dutifully served his nation and continues to proudly serve his family and community. Thanks to Specialist Stevens for his service and sacrifice. This country is blessed to have servicemen, like James Stevens, who selflessly devoted their careers to protecting this country. We owe him a debt that can never be repaid.

HONORING THE TOUGALOO COLLEGE/DELTA HEALTHPARTNERS
HEALTHY START INITIATIVE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public health program designed to reduce infant mortality in the Mississippi Delta, the Tougaloo College/Delta HealthPartners Healthy Start Initiative.

This initiative is one of the 100 Healthy Start Initiatives throughout the nation working endlessly to give every child a healthy start in life. The Delta HealthPartners' Healthy Start program is housed under the auspices of Tougaloo College within the George A. and Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center, under the direction of Dr. Sandra Carr Hayes, the executive director. The program serves a rural population in a seven county area in the Mississippi Delta (Tunica, Coahoma, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Sunflower, Bolivar, and Washington counties). These counties are among the poorest and most medically underserved in Mississippi and the nation.

The Healthy Start Initiative was implemented in 1999 with funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration under the leadership of Dr. Beverly W. Hogan, who now serves as President of Tougaloo College. Today, Ms. Arletha Howard serves as the project director. Ms. Howard is a registered nurse with over 28 years of experience in oncology, burn trauma, intensive care unit, pediatrics, home health, maternal and child health. She has worked with the Healthy Start Initiative for 16 years. In 2014, under Mrs. Howard's leadership, the Healthy Start Initiative was upgraded from a Level I individual based program to a Level II community based program.